

# A STUDY ON ECONOMIC CONDITION AND SOCIAL STATUS OF DOMESTIC WORKERS IN THE CITY OF PUNE

Ms. Archana Kherde<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Milind Peshave<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Student, Savitribai Phule Pune University.

<sup>2</sup>Principal, D. Y. Patil Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

## Abstract

From time immemorial, women along with men have been an integral part of social structure throughout the world. In the Indian society, women have played and continues to play a significant role in all spheres of life. Based on the contributions made by women in all sectors of work, the progress of any nation can be judged to a great extent, based on status of. Women play myriad roles in the society as a mother, as a sister and as a wife. Hence, she is the foundation stone not only of the family in particular but also of the society. The current study aims at understanding the socio-economic conditions of women domestic workers in the city of Pune. To fulfil the objectives of this study, a sample of 350 domestic women workers were collected from different areas of Pune. The results have shown that the condition of domestic women workers are vulnerable in Pune city. This study found that the mode of saving pattern of domestic workers. This paper is based on personal opinion of domestic workers.

**Keywords:** Economic Condition, Social Status, Domestic Workers

## I. Introduction

Women play an important role in building a nation, which also includes their part as a homemaker. Even though homemakers comprise of the largest workforce in the world, their contribution remains unpaid and unvalued. The domestic chores of women are not considered as an occupation by nation worldwide because it is considered as an unproductive and insignificant work. We fail to consider that the domestic work is the of the most productive jobs performed by women which not only contributes significantly in development of family but also of a nation. The workers who provide service similar to that of a homemaker to other's home are known as the domestic servants, workers or maid. Normally due to illiteracy or lack of awareness about education, women enter these types of jobs as for their own survival and for the survival of their families. In this regard, women as domestic workers not only play an important role in the life of an employer but also improve their economic condition.

In the history of any nation, Women have contributed significantly to the economic development of the nation in order to achieve remarkable progress. Due to the prevalence of gender prejudice at every social division, even among the most educated and developed society, the partition of women in all spheres of life has gone unnoticed. In some regions chauvinistic societies reduce the participation and contribution of women in significant decision-making pertaining to family and economic patterns. In the present society, domestic workers are considered as one of the most significant workers in the economy of the nation. The service of domestic women workers is considered as one of the most upcoming sectors in the world. In recent years, the demand for domestic and house care workers is increasing steadily in developing as well as developed countries.

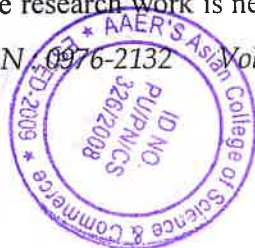
## II. Literature Review

Dr. akanksha tomar\* dr. jugal Kishore (june 2018.) published journal on topic "demographic and socioeconomic profile of female domestic workers in an urban slum of central Delhi- a mixed method study" Housemaids form a major part of the unorganized work force in our country. Domestic Women workforce in our country belong to low socioeconomic status, living in vulnerable condition. More research work is needed to be done as is done in

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any other formal or informal sector. Research on attitudes and behaviors of employers towards domestic workers is required too.

**Dr. Meena priya Dharshini (July 2016)** mentioned in her study on topic “A study on socio-economic status of women domestic workers (WDW) In Puduvayal, Sivaganga District” the socio economic condition of female workers coming from small section of various suburban areas to work in niches of Puduvayal. The upper class of the society drains out the domestic workers and yet the workers remain unrecognized. Prolonged service in the same house builds a trustworthy relation between owners and domestic helpers. At times, servants expect financial assistance from the owners in case of emergencies. The female workers are exploited physically as well as socially for them being illiterate and unknown to human their rights. There is an urgent need to understand the problems faced by women domestic workers and take essential steps to recognize their hard-work.

**Rufina Augustine & Dr. Rupesh Kumar Singh (December 2016)** published journal on topic “Condition & Problems of Female Domestic Workers”(With Special Reference to L.D.A. Colony in Lucknow City, India) This study highlights the “Condition & problems of female domestic workers” which basically focuses on the “condition of work” & “working conditions”. We generally find female domestic workers to be a part of the unorganized workforce in India. This trend has increased due to lack of education, and other vocational skills among women. Females as domestic workers face a lot of problems not only at their work places but in their personal life, too. Their poor health conditions, low wages, no job security make them weak and vulnerable which in turn causes mental and physical agony to them. Various Governmental Organizations (GO’s) & Non-Governmental Organization (NGO’s) are working for the welfare of domestic workers.

**Institute of Research Advances published (March 2016)** International Journal of Management & Social Sciences on topic “Sociological Study of Women Domestic Workers in Bangalore City” Domestic workers are unprotected workers. They do not get the protection of several legislative provisions. Thus Minimum Wages Act (1948), Equal Remuneration Act (1976), Interstate Migrant workmen Act (1979) Bonded Labour System (Abolition & Regulation) Act (1970) etc. are all there, but do not cover, all these workers. These acts can be implemented if adequate Government machinery exists. Even trade unions have failed to look into the problems faced by domestic workers. Moreover, domestic workers are facing serious problems in both rural and urban sector. Circumstances have compelled to get engaged in such jobs. They are not trained formally or systematically for the jobs but somehow manage to do it because of opportunities available in the vicinity, where they stay. They get migrated to other places where they can work or get work and face difficulties of shelter etc. They are isolated and scattered and do not even have the social ties to feel secure. In spite of all these, there is always the scare of losing employment and to work under hazardous condition, better not to speak of other aspects of decent work like Environment, Health, and Safety

**Rufina Augustine<sup>1</sup> & Dr. Rupesh Kumar Sing (December 2016)** Journal of Sociology and Social Work “Condition & Problems of Female Domestic Workers (With Special Reference to L.D.A. Colony in Lucknow City, India)” Domestic workers mostly consists of women. Further study reveals that married women form the main chunk of domestic workers as compared to unmarried, divorced or widow. Female domestic workers come from illiterate backgrounds and so unorganized workforce comprises of people of illiterate background, although the females of all the educational status are into this work. Involvement of the Hindu females of weaker and vulnerable section of the society are more in numbers in domestic work although this study also evident that after a lot of efforts made by the Govt. the condition of weaker and vulnerable section is same till today. Study further shows that female of nuclear families and weaker sections of the society are more involved in domestic work than joint families. Female domestic workers were found to be the bread earners and even heading the family. Study also



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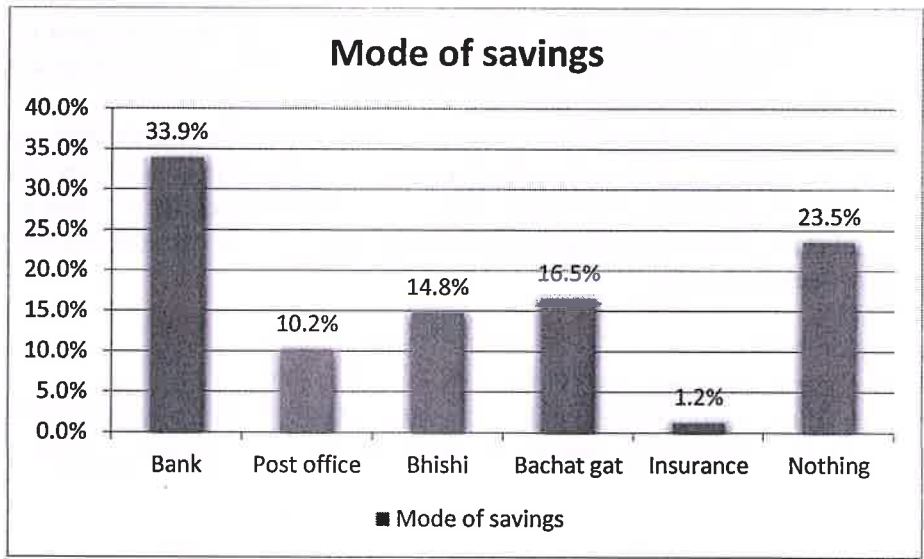
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The above chart describes that the bank mode of saving 33.9% is sought. Post office mode of saving 10.2% is sought. Bhishi mode of saving 14.8% and Bachat gat 16.5% mode of saving is sought. Insurance mode of saving 1.2% is sought. 23.5% nothing mode of saving is sought.



The above chart describes that the 5.8% of women domestic workers can't take any decision. 94.2% of women domestic workers take decision in family.



indicates that females of below poverty line (BPL) families are more engaged in domestic works. So it is a clear indicator of poor living conditions of the unorganized sector of the Indian society. The study indicates that there are no fixed working hours in a day so their wages/payment are also not fixed like other unorganized sectors. Study also reveals that Minimum payment of wages Act is not effectively implemented by the Govt. in Unorganized sectors of India, so the practice of deciding wages on mutual consent is still being practiced. Lack of national level of Rules & Regulations for female domestic worker has worsened the problem of this weaker section.

### **III. Objectives of Study**

Below are the main objectives of the study:

- 1) To the study of economic background of women domestic workers in the city of Pune.
- 2) To analyze social and political status of women domestic workers in society in the city of Pune.

### **IV. Research Methodology**

This section refers to the method and data sources used to carry out this study and evaluate the research objectives.

#### **4.1 Techniques of Data Collection**

The present research study involves both primary and secondary data. The primary data is collected through field survey by the help of a structured questionnaire with multiple choice answer options.

The secondary data is also collected by referring to the Journals, research magazines and published data on varied in nature.

#### **4.2 Type of Research**

For the purpose of the present study, descriptive research design methodology has been adopted.

#### **4.3 Sample Design, Sample Size and Sample Method**

Sample selected for the study is 350 domestic workers.

#### **4.4 Limitations of the Study**

The research survey completely based on the opinion of the domestic workers.

### **V. Data analysis & finding**

In this paper, researcher collected data from the respondents through the responses given by them in the questionnaire. The question wise interpretation of the respondents is given below



- In India women as mothers play a significant role in decision making and shaping the future of their children. The above study is in coherence to the finding where approximately 95% of women are actively involved in decision making in the family.
- From the questionnaire, it has been observed that the active involvement of women domestic workers as leaders or members of political/social organizations is less than 5%, which is very poor. It is very important for them to get involved, in such activities, in significant numbers because these organizations will serve as platforms for them to come together in union to fight for their rights and also help them in shaping and implementing laws for improvement in their work conditions.

## VII Conclusion

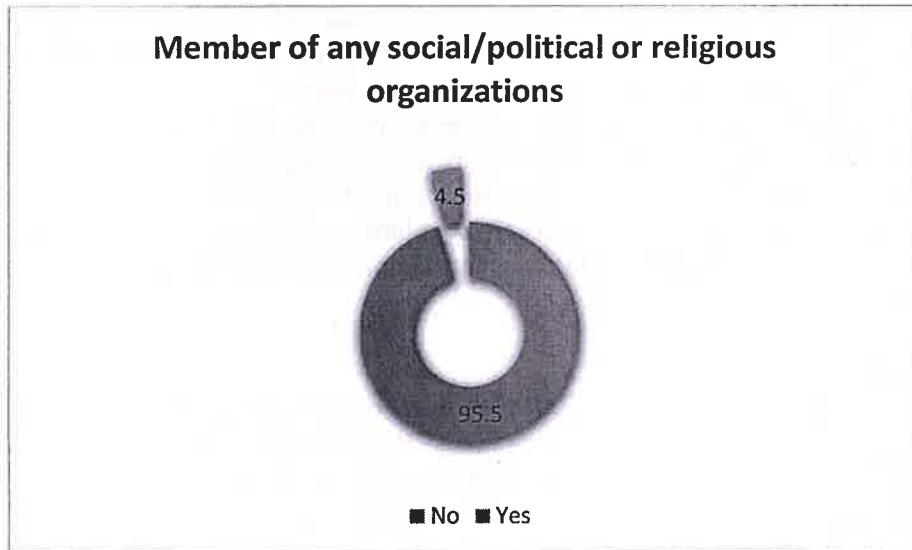
It is widely accepted that access to formal education plays a significant role in improving women's lives. Hence, many women from across the globe are increasingly benefiting from formal education. To solve the identified problems, the researcher suggests that wages of the domestic workers should be uniform and defined across the nation, instill awareness among employers about poor situations of domestic workers by conducting public discussion forums; policies must be introduced and implemented to safeguard the rights of the domestic workers and educational opportunities must be provided by the governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Majority of the Women domestic workers came from economically disadvantaged group and lived in slums or Scheduled caste colonies. Their wages were meagre and there was no uniformity in structure of their wages. They were compelled to up such jobs due to low education and/or poor financial background. It was also observed that they were exploited both at their working place and in some cases at their own homes. Hence, it is of utmost importance to reduce exploitation of domestic workers by raising awareness among themselves and inspire them to form organizations to not only protect their rights but also to encourage government to implement laws in this respect. With the implementation of such changes it is possible to bring dignity and status of domestic workers at par with the workers from the organized sectors.

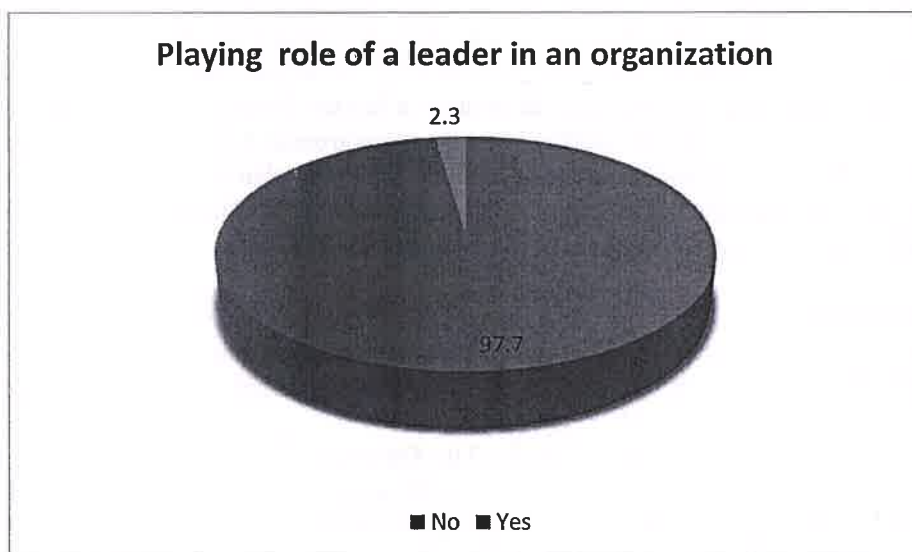
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The above chart describes that the 4.5% of women domestic workers interested in social and political organization. 95.5% of women domestic workers not interested in social and political organization.



The above chart describes that the 2.3% of women domestic workers interested in playing role of a leader in an organization. 97.7% of women domestic workers not interested in playing role of a leader in an organization.

#### **VI Suggestions & Recommendation**

- The bar graph on mode of savings, indicates that approximately 45% of domestic workers hold their savings in financial institutions such as banks, post office and insurance which gets reflected in the economy of the country where as the remaining 55% is saved as cash. Hence it is necessary to educate them in proper investments options which may yield good returns to them in near future.



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